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30 August 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR: *Acting* Project Director

SUBJECT : TALENT Communications

REFERENCES : A. TCS-1816-57, 9 August 1957,
Director of Operations to CIA TCO
B. TCS-1841-57, 19 August 1957,
Project Director to TCO

1. The matters discussed in the referenced papers bear on three questions which have been brought to my attention. Comments and conclusions on these questions are set forth immediately beneath each.

2. a. QUESTION 1. In view of the authority granted to the Project Director to use special communications privileges for AQUATONE operations, is it proper to include TALENT communications?

b. Comment: You have already authorized the CIA TCO and TSO and officials in HTAUTOMAT to release messages relating to TALENT matters, including [REDACTED] business, which have thus far been almost exclusively between Washington,

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c. Conclusion: This action of yours was proper inasmuch as the volume of material was expected to be small, the [REDACTED] channel already existed between these points, and, finally (and most important), the management of TALENT business has been a direct concern of the Project Director.

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3. a. QUESTION 2. Will TALENT continue to exist as a system after AQUATONE, perhaps serving other sensitive projects, and, therefore, will it not require a separate communications system? If eventually, why not now?

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3. b. Comments: As you know, agreements have already been reached with regard to the incorporation of [REDACTED] products into the TALENT system and also those of [REDACTED] if and when it is established.

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Though this is the only case to date of the inclusion of non-AQUATONE material in the TALENT system, you will recall that it has long been your belief that the TALENT system would be most effective as a security system if it included materials from a number of sensitive projects so that the users of the products would not be able to tell precisely from which project or source they emanate. Apart from the fact that the TALENT system will be required to protect the product of the AQUATONE Project after it is discontinued, it would seem that we ought to anticipate the continuance of the TALENT system after the end of AQUATONE to control other sensitive products. If this judgment were accepted, then the question would be whether now is the time to make provision for special TALENT communications distinct from [REDACTED]

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c. The establishment of separate TALENT communications channels involves the following actions:

1) The approval of the Director's office for the establishment of a separate channel in order to insure restricted and controlled dissemination.

2) The coordination of the Communications Security Division to arrange for communications handling in the special signal center and the restricted and controlled dissemination from that signal center.

3) A slug to be used for guidance for the transmission and dissemination of messages.

A special signal center in L Building already exists with limited personnel cleared for highly sensitive projects such as AQUATONE. They are also today cleared for TALENT.

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d. Conclusion: In view of the very small amount of traffic now flowing through [REDACTED] channels and bearing on TALENT matters, it is not believed necessary to make this transition

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at this time. However, at such time as the TALENT flow becomes considerably larger, by virtue of business bearing on AQUATONE or by virtue of the flow of materials from [REDACTED] consideration should be given to establishing this new TALENT communications arrangement.

4. a. QUESTION 3. Is it necessary to have a communications arrangement which will permit the proper handling of TALENT-COMINT messages?

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b. Comment: It is now clear that by virtue of recent decisions bearing on the dissemination of the DMR and the CMR, only the latter having heretofore gone to [REDACTED] there is even less likelihood of TALENT-COMINT traffic, and there have only been previously one or two cases where TALENT-COMINT messages were sent. Where it appears that messages must be transmitted involving the two security systems, it is recommended that the sender be required to separate the substance of his messages so that each part may flow through its own system with any necessary reference to messages transmitted in the other. In the event where this is not possible, we have the assistance of the COMINT Security Officers of OCI to try to achieve a sanitization of the COMINT element in order that the message may be transmitted through the TALENT (at the present time [REDACTED] channel,

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c. Conclusion: That no TALENT-COMINT communications channel be established.

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5. Comments on Slugs Used re TALENT Matters. There has been some confusion arising from the existence of the slugs [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. By virtue of the reasoning above, the [REDACTED] will not be used except in regard to operational messages bearing upon TALENT-COMINT which must go from Headquarters to operational bases. The [REDACTED] slug is used as a cable address in expediting the transmittal of messages from [REDACTED] (when active) to HTAUTOMAT and those associated, such as DD/I, TSO, and myself, as well as Operations, on matters relating to their problems. This address is used not only on messages coming into Headquarters but also on messages which are coordinated in the community from Headquarters to the USAFE Commander at [REDACTED]. When we desire to talk to a CIA representative at an [REDACTED] on matters which he may discuss with

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representatives of other agencies, these are designated "FOR JONES AT [REDACTED] When we wish to discuss matters which the CIA deputy should not discuss with representatives of other agencies at [REDACTED] we do so through the Base cable address (e.g., [REDACTED] The use of the [REDACTED] slug should be continued for communications on TALENT matters other than those which properly belong under [REDACTED] between Washington Headquarters CIA and any of our TALENT centers; these today are [REDACTED]

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6. The foregoing represents the views of representatives of Project Office of Communications, HTAUTOMAT, OCI, the TSO and TCO CIA. If the foregoing views are in accordance with your own, would you please indicate your concurrence. No further action is required except to inform [REDACTED] re handling of TALENT-COMINT in accordance with the comments and conclusions in paragraph 4.

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CIA TALENT Control Officer

CONCUR:

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S [REDACTED] *for*
Project Director

JQR:cw

1-Forward

2-Project Director

3-Deputy Project Director

4-Director of Operations

5-Project Communications Officer

6-OCI-- [REDACTED]

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7-Chief/HTAUTOMAT

8-TALENT Security Officer

9-HTA OCR-- [REDACTED]

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10-Project Security Officer

11-chrono